

Please replace the section entitled "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" on page 17 with the following amended paragraphs marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

According to some embodiments, a portion of local memory allocated to a thread by a programming statement includes an indication of a read/write status of the portion and symbolically references a buffer name wherein the symbolically referenced buffer name includes both letters and numbers.

~~symbolic programming system is provided to facilitate the use of buffers stored in a local cache at a network processing element.~~